was taken up in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal during 1984-85, as a forerunner to the Special Rice Production Programme. Based on the experiences gained during the operation of this pilot project the Special Rice Production Programme was launched from 1985-86 in Assam, Bihar, Eastern Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for increasing the production and productivity of rice.

(b) The rice production in these states recorded 15.86 per cent increase during 1985-86 over 1984-85 production.

Production of oil seeds

407. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the production of major oil seeds during the last three years, yearwise, and seed-wise; and

(b) what had been the shortfall in production of oil seeds during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) The production of major oilseeds during the last three years ending 1985-86 is given below:—

(*Lakh tonnes*)

Oilseed Crop	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86
Groundnut	70·9	64·3	55·2
Castorseed	4·0	4·7	3·0
Sesamum	5.6	5.2	5·0
Rapeseed & Mustard	26·1	30·7	26·4
Linseed	4·4	3·9	3·7
Nigerseed	1·8	1·5	1·9
Safflower	5·0	5·2	3·2
Sunfflower	3·0	4·4	3·0
Soyabean	6·1	9·6	9·8
TOTAL NINE OILSEEDS	126·9	129·5	111·5

Similar estimates of production of oilseeds for 1986-87 are not yet due from the States. However, according to current assessment, the total production of oilseeds in the country in 1986-87 is expected to be significantly higher as compared to 1985-86.

(b) A record production of 129.5 lakh tonnes of oilseeds was achieved in 1984-85, in succession to the previous record of 126.9 lakh tonnes in 1983-84. However, due to adverse rainfall and weather conditions, the production declined by 18 lakh tonnes to 111.5 lakh tonnes in 1985-86.

Prices of edible oil

408. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI K. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what had been the rise in price of edible oils during the last three years;

(b) what had been consumer's demand of edible oil during these years, year-wise; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to meet the demand and check the price rise?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) The wholesale price index as on January 1985, January 1986 and January 1987 of Edible oils is as under:

January '85 . . .	312·4
January '86 . . .	299·6
January '87 . . .	408·2

(b) The sub-group constituted by the Department of Civil Supplies for Edible oils for the VIIth Five Year Plan had assessed the demand for edible oils as follow:

(*in Lakh tonnes*)

Oil Year (Nov.– Oct.)	Demand
1984-85	49·06
1985-86	51·15
1986-87	53·29

(c) The Government is importing Edible Oils to meet the gap between the demand for and indigenous availability. The imported edible oils is allocated to States/ Union Territories for distribution under Public Distribution System to contain the rising trend in the prices of indigenous edible oils. As a long term measure all out efforts are being made to increase oilseeds/ oils production.

Improvement in IRDP

409. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that numerous studies conducted over the past 12 months by the R.B.I., P.E.O., Comptroller and Auditor General and other agencies, revealed that a good part of the large sum of money spent through the I.R.D.P. passed into the hands of the rural elite; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) No such studies have been conducted over the past 12 months by Reserve Bank of India, Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission and Comptroller and Auditor General. This Department has, however, introduced a new system of monthly concurrent evaluation since October, 1985. The RBI, PEO and NABARD, however, conducted studies during the Sixth Plan which revealed that 16 per cent,, 25.8 per cent and 15 per cent respectively of sample beneficiaries were ineligible for assistance under IRDP.

(b) On the basis of such reports we have asked the State Governments to ensure that identification of beneficiaries involve the people representatives much more closely. The final selection of families has to be done in the Gram Sabha meeting.

Since October, 1985, the Department has also taken up a system of monthly concurrent evaluation. Its report for the 12-monhs period (October 85-September 86) shows that the selection ineligible families has come down to 9 per cent. On the basis of these monthly reports the State Governments have been asked to take necessary steps so that no ineligible families are assisted under IRDP.